

Appl. No. 09/767,444
Amdt. Dated December 8, 2005
Reply to Notice of Allowance of September 20, 2005

This listing of claims, which reflect the Examiner's amendments provided with the Notice of Allowance, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method for communicating between a hearing device including a user input for listening to first audio signals and an individual carrying said device, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a plurality of notification audio signals each having a corresponding predetermined duration;
- a user selecting one of said plurality of notification signals, using the user input, for associating with a status of the device; and
- applying to an output converter of said hearing device said selected notification signal for notifying the user of the status of said hearing device.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of storing said at least one of said notification signals on a user exchangeable storage element.

Claims 17-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of storing said at least one of said notification signals in a storage unit and operationally

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connecting said storage unit and said hearing device by a wireless link.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, ~~further comprising the step of providing said electro/mechanical output converter as a loudspeaker and wherein said generating said~~ at least one of said notification signals is generated so that it is audible by an individual remote from said hearing device.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein more than one of said notification signals ~~second audio-signal~~ is provided and further wherein said selecting of said notification signals to be activated is provided in a menu-controlled manner.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the step of performing said selecting is done via a remote communication unit for said hearing device.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of establishing a wireless communication between said communication unit and said hearing device.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the step of performing said selecting is done in a speech controlled manner..

Claim 26 (previously presented): A hearing device system with at least one hearing device, said hearing device comprising:

an electrical/mechanical converter;

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an input for a user to select one of a plurality of notification audio signals for associating with a system status;

a signal processing unit with an output being operationally connected to an input of the electrical/mechanical converter; and

a generator unit an output of which is also operationally connected to said input of said converter, said generator unit including a user exchangeable storage for storing one or more of said plurality of notification signals, wherein said generator unit provides said selected notification signal to said converter to notify the user of the status of the system status.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A hearing device system comprising:

at least one hearing device, said hearing device including:

an electrical/mechanical converter; and

a signal processing unit with an output being operationally connected to an input of said electrical/mechanical converter;

an input for a user to select a user defined notification audio signal of predetermined extent for associating with a system status; and

a generator unit the output of which is operationally connected to the input of said electrical/ mechanical converter, said generator unit including a user writable read/write storage unit for storing said user defined notification audio signal ~~for~~ to be output by said generator unit for notifying a user of a status of the system.

Claims 28-31 (canceled)

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Claim 32 (previously presented): The system of claim 27, wherein a writing input of said read/write storage is operationally connected or is operationally connectable to a signal source of audio signals.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The system of claim 32, wherein said signal source is an audio playback unit or is a unit with internet connection.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The system of claim 27, further comprising a display unit for at least one of a visual or speech controlled menu, said display unit being operationally connected or connectable to a signal generator generating control signals for said device to said generator unit.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The system of claim 34, wherein said display unit is for speech control and has an output which is operationally connected to said input of said electrical/mechanical converter of said hearing device.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A method of acknowledging to an individual carrying a hearing device, said hearing device having:

- an acoustical/electrical input converter unit having an output;

- a signal processing unit having an input and an output;

- an input for a user to select one of a plurality of acknowledgement audio signals for associating with a predetermined system status; and

- an electrical/mechanical output converter arrangement having an input, wherein

- said output of said input converter is operationally connected to said input of said signal processing unit, the

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output thereof being operationally connected to said input of said output converter arrangement, said method comprising the steps of:

generating an acknowledgement control signal in said hearing device whenever the predetermined status of said hearing device is reached; and

initiating said selected acknowledgement audio signal according to said acknowledgement control signal to be applied to said input of said output converter, wherein

said acknowledgement audio signal is made selectable by the individual.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein one or more of said acknowledgement audio signals is stored on a user exchangeable storage.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein said user-exchangeable storage is applied to said hearing device.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein said user-exchangeable storage is a read-only storage.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein said hearing device further has a storage unit for storing said audio signals.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, further comprising a storage unit remote from said hearing device for said audio signals and establishing at least one of a wireless or of a wired communication between said hearing device and said storage unit.

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Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein more than one of said audio signals are provided and wherein said user selectability comprises selecting which of said audio signals is initiated by said acknowledgement control signal.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein said selected audio signal is applied to said output converter of said hearing device so as to be audible even as said hearing device is not applied to an individual.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein said selection of said audio signal is performed in a menu-controlled manner.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of pre-selecting one of said audio signals, via a communication unit remote from said hearing device, for associating with said predetermined system status.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein there is established a wireless communication between said communication unit and said hearing device.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein said pre-selection of said audio signal is performed at said communication unit in a menu-controlled manner by means of at least one of visual and speech menu indications.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The method of claim 47, wherein said menu is communicated to said individual via said hearing device as a menu indication by voice.

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Claim 49 (currently amended): The method of claim 36, wherein said ~~pre~~-selection of said audio signal is performed in a speech-controlled manner.

Claim 50 (previously presented): A system comprising at least one hearing device, said hearing device including: an electrical/mechanical input converter arrangement having an output;

a signal processing unit having an input and an output;

an input for a user to select a notification audio signal for associating with a predetermined system status;

an electrical/mechanical output converter arrangement having an input; and

a generator unit having:

an audio signal storage unit for storing the selected notification signal; and

an output operationally connected to said input of said output converter arrangement;

wherein said output of said input converter arrangement is operationally connected to said input of said signal processing unit, and wherein

said output of said signal processing unit is operationally connected to one of said input and another input of said output converter arrangement, and further wherein

said hearing device generates at least one acknowledgement control signal when said predetermined status of said hearing device is achieved, and still further wherein

said generator unit applies said selected notification audio signal to said output converter arrangement when initiated by said acknowledgement control signal of said hearing device.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The system of claim 50, said hearing device further comprising a manually operated

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switching member, wherein said acknowledgement control signal is initiated by said switching member.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The system of claim 50, said generator unit further including an addressing input for said audio signal, said acknowledgement control signal addressing via said addressing input said audio signal.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The system of claim 52, further comprising a remote control unit for said hearing device, wherein said acknowledgement control signal is initiated by a control action for said hearing device by said remote control unit.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The system of claim 53, wherein said remote control unit is operationally connected to said hearing device via at least one of a wired and of a wireless communication link.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The system of claim 50, wherein said generator is integrated in said hearing device.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The system of claim 50, wherein said generator unit is remote from said hearing device and there is provided a wired and/or wireless communication link between said hearing device and said generator unit.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The system of claim 56, wherein said generator unit is connectable to the internet.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The system of claim 50, further comprising a display unit for displaying at least one of a visually and of a speech controlled menu, said display unit being operationally connected or connectable to said

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generator unit and to said hearing device for establishing which of more than one of said audio signals shall be initiated by said acknowledgement control signal and/or which of more than one acknowledgement control signals shall initiate said audio signal.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The system of claim 58, wherein said display unit has an output for audio menu information signals, said output being operationally connected to said output converter of said hearing device.